

Issue NE-CW1603, released April 21, 2003, by the Nebraska Agricultural Statistics Service, USDA . For more information contact us at: 100 Centennial Mall North, Suite 298, Lincoln, NE 68508, 402-437-5541, e-mail at [nass-ne@nass.usda.gov](mailto:nass-ne@nass.usda.gov), Internet at <http://www.usda.gov/nass/>.

**GENERAL:** For the week ending April 20, 2003, rainfall and wet soil conditions limited fieldwork activities but improved soil moisture supplies and producer outlook, according to USDA’s Nebraska Agricultural Statistics Service. Subsoil moisture supplies, although slightly improved last week, continued to be rated mostly short to very short and unchanged from last fall. Producer activities included spring tillage operations and planting, fertilizer applications, and livestock care.

This release is based on reports and data from FSA county directors, county extension educators, NOAA, and the High Plains Climate Center. Current county specific comments plus current and historic PDF files of Weather and Crop reports can be found at: [http://www.nass.usda.gov/ne/cropwthr/cmts\\_cur.htm](http://www.nass.usda.gov/ne/cropwthr/cmts_cur.htm)

**WEATHER:** Temperatures averaged above normals for the week and ranged from normals to five degrees above normals. Precipitation was statewide and ranged from traces to over two inches.

**Field Crops Report:** Wheat condition continued to improve last week and rated 1 percent very poor, 11 poor, 44 fair, 39 good, and 5 excellent. Thirteen

percent of the crop had jointed, which compares to 8 last year and 10 average.

Oat seedings progressed to 76 percent complete, behind last year at 79 but ahead of average at 68. Thirty percent had emerged and compares with 40 last year and 33 average.

Sugar beet planting progressed in the Panhandle and Southwest districts to 25 percent complete. A year ago 55 percent had been planted.

Corn planting made limited progress last week with 4 percent seeded to date. This compares to 7 percent last year and 5 average.

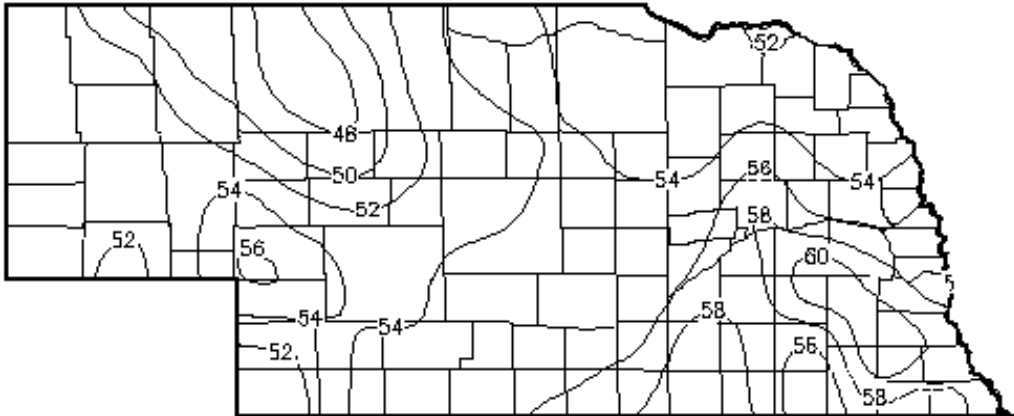
Alfalfa conditions rated 5 percent very poor, 18 poor, 37 fair, 32 good, and 8 excellent.

**LIVESTOCK:** Pasture and range condition improved slightly and rated 28 percent very poor, 28 poor, 31 fair, 12 good, and 1 excellent but remains significantly below a year ago. Cattle and calves condition rated 3 percent poor, 22 fair, 63 good, and 12 excellent. Calving progressed to 92 percent complete with calf losses mostly average to below average.

Progress and Conditions: By District, Nebraska, as of April 20, 2003

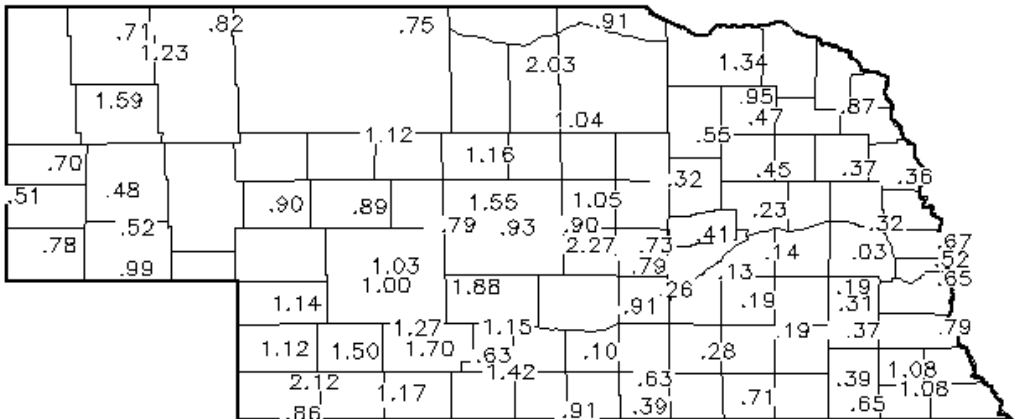
Item	Agricultural Statistics Districts								State	Last Week	Last Year	Average
	NW	NC	NE	C	EC	SW	SC	SE				
% Corn Planted	0	1	2	4	3	0	3	12	4	1	7	5
% Wheat Jointed	10	11	2	10	12	17	12	10	13	2	8	10
% Oats Planted	48	80	82	75	86	69	87	90	76	47	79	68
% Oats Emerged	23	65	21	16	25	39	21	60	30	5	40	33
Days Suitable for Fieldwork	3.7	2.9	4.1	3.9	4.8	3.0	3.3	4.0	3.7	2.8	6.1	4.3
Topsoil Moisture - % Very short	0	3	15	0	6	14	3	17	6	11	28	11
- % Short	11	11	23	50	31	25	41	27	22	36	32	17
- % Adequate	88	86	52	47	62	59	56	56	70	53	40	62
- % Surplus	1	0	10	3	1	2	0	0	2	0	0	10
Subsoil Moisture - % Very Short	27	32	32	40	35	56	49	57	38	45	20	14
- % Short	54	39	43	49	44	37	45	34	44	44	46	26
- % Adequate	19	29	24	11	21	7	6	9	18	11	34	56
- % Surplus	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	4

Seven Day Average Temperature at the Four Inch Depth Under Bare Soil



Source: High Plains Regional Climate Centers Automated Weather Data Network (AWDN).

Precipitation in Inches for Week Ending April 20, 2003



Precipitation: By District, Nebraska, April 1 - April 20, 2003

Item	NW	NC	NE	CEN	EC	SW	SC	SE
Total past week	.79	1.23	.81	.88	.30	1.28	.59	.64
Total since April 1	1.17	1.87	1.56	2.20	1.50	1.98	1.46	1.48
Normal since April 1	1.13	1.35	1.63	1.55	1.76	1.20	1.33	1.79
Total as % of normal	103%	138%	96%	141%	85%	165%	107%	82%

Source: High Plains Climate Center data as of 8:00 a.m.

Temperature: By District, Nebraska, Week Ending Sunday April 20, 2003

Station		Temperature			
		Extremes		Average	Departure
		High	Low		
NW	Alliance	81	31	49	2
	Scottsbluff	84	33	52	5
	Sidney	80	32	50	2
NC	Ainsworth	89	33	51	2
	Arthur	84	33	50	1
	O'Neill	89	33	51	1
NE	Concord	85	33	53	2
	Elgin	86	33	52	1
	West Point	86	34	54	2
C	Grand Island	91	35	55	4
	Lexington	88	33	55	4
	Ord	87	36	53	2
EC	Lincoln	87	39	58	4
	Central City	90	35	56	4
	Mead	88	39	57	4
SW	Champion	86	30	50	0
	North Platte	88	32	52	2
	Curtis	89	35	55	4
SC	Arapahoe	85	28	49	0
	Minden	92	37	56	5
	Red Cloud	87	35	56	5
SE	Beatrice	87	38	58	4
	Clay Center	88	34	55	3
	Nemaha	90	41	58	3

Source: High Plains Climate Center.